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## GERMANS BEGIN BIG OFFENSIVE ON BRITISH FRONT

TERRIFIC STORM OF ARTILLERY FIRE OVER FRONT OF 50 MILES.

### NO ATTACK ON AMERICANS

Bonar Law Says Attack Had Been Expected and Great Preparations Made to Meet It—French at Verdun Also Assaulted.

Exactly 25 months after the Germans began the historic battle of Verdun, the thunder of their guns deepened into a tempest of fire along the British front in Northern France and they began what may be the greatest battle of the war, a struggle which may lead to results which will shape the destinies of millions of people over coming centuries.

The attack was made on a scale hitherto unknown during this war of major offensives. It was over a front of 50 miles. Official reports are very brief, but correspondents at the scene tell of the terrific storm of artillery fire that burst over the lines held by Field Marshal Haig's men.

The bombardment began at 5 o'clock just before the early spring dawn was breaking over eastern France. Shells of large and small calibers were rained upon the lines held by the British for about five hours. Then German infantry stormed out to make the first great assault. The Germans, favored by the wind, moved forward under cover of a pall of smoke which hid the assaulting columns from the eyes of the British holding the front lines.

Describing the battle, Andrew Bonar Law informed the house of commons that lightly held portions of the British line had been withdrawn, but said that there was no need for alarm on the part of the country. The correspondent at the British front reports that an attack there had been expected and that great preparations had been made to meet it. The Berlin official report says that the Germans have penetrated into some British positions.

Nor were the German efforts concentrated on the front held by the British. The Germans assaulted the French lines near the village of Ornes, to the northeast of Verdun, and claim to have penetrated a considerable distance. Near Rheims, too, the French were subjected to an assault; but here the artillery fire bore the burden of the fighting.

The attacks at Verdun and Rheims, however, may be considered for the time being as mere diversions to the principal attack, which has been loosed against the British. They would serve to keep French forces at Verdun and Rheims from being transferred to the British sector, if that part of the battle line should show any signs of bending back.

No Report from United States Lines.

Nothing has been reported as to attacks on the lines held by the Americans. It had been expected that the Germans would make an assault on the American-held trenches in the Lorraine and Toul sectors, acting on the theory that troops which have not had experience in engagements of the first degree might be found to yield easier than veterans. That such an attack may be launched, and with only slight artillery preparation, is within the possibilities.

The activity on the American sectors during the past three weeks would indicate that the Germans have been concerned with the disposition of General Pershing's legions, their probable strength and the locations of the batteries supporting the infantry holding the lines.

The French official reports state that the Germans have been singularly repulsed in a number of engagements, notably on the Verdun and Lorraine fronts.

### GERMANY'S RELATIONS WITH HOLLAND ALTERED

London. — Dispatches from The Hague report that a local new agency says that Germany considers her relations with Holland altered by the attitude of the Dutch government toward the entente and the United States and publishes a report that the abandonment by the Dutch government of the remaining restrictive clauses in its shipping loan terms would be regarded by Germany as cause for war.

### PRICE OF WHEAT RAISED TO \$2.50 PER BUSHEL

Washington.—The agricultural appropriation bill with the Gore amendment increasing the 1918 government guaranteed wheat price to \$2.50 was passed by the senate. It now goes to conference between the two houses where there will be another fight over the wheat price. The wheat price was adopted 49 to 18 after five days discussion in which its advocates urged the necessity of stimulating production.

## NEXT LIBERTY LOAN IS THREE BILLIONS

THE INTEREST RATE WILL BE FOUR AND A QUARTER PER CENT.

### TO BE NON-CONVERTABLE

Secretary McAdoo Announces That Expenditures of America and the Allies Are Much Below Estimates.

Washington.—Secretary McAdoo announced that the amount of the third liberty loan would be three billion dollars at four and one-quarter per cent and that all over-subscriptions would be accepted.

The new bonds will be non-convertible but bonds of the first and second liberty loans may be convertible into the new 4 1/4 per cent securities.

Mr. McAdoo said expenditures of the United States and the allied government had been much below estimates, and that consequently it was not necessary to make the loan larger than three billion dollars.

Congress will be asked for authority to make additional loans to the allies during the coming summer. The decision to make the new bonds non-convertible, the secretary announced, was reached in order to put an end to the expectation of higher interest rates.

Secretary McAdoo issued this statement:

#### McAdoo's Statement.

"The secretary of the treasury in a conference with Mr. Kitchin, chairman of the ways and means committee, outlined his plan for the third liberty loan. Actual expenditures of the United States government and of the allied governments having been much less than had been indicated by the estimates, the amount of the next loan will be only 3,000,000,000, the right being reserved to allot over-subscriptions.

"The secretary will ask authority from congress to issue bonds bearing interest at the rate of 4 1/4 per cent per annum, acceptable at par and accrued interest in payment of United States inheritance taxes and having the benefit of a sinking fund of 5 per cent per annum during the period of the war and for one year thereafter.

"It is the belief of the secretary that the rate now proposed is sufficient and that, by restricting unnecessary capital issues, and by inducing the people who subscribe for liberty bonds to save and to keep them for investment, and by purchases with the sinking fund from those who find themselves compelled to sell, future increases of interest rate may be avoided. In order to put an end to the expectation of higher interest rates, it is proposed that the conversion privilege shall be eliminated from the new bonds, but the holders of liberty bonds of all existing issues will be given an opportunity to convert their bonds into the new 4 1/4 per cent bonds."

### BIG DRIVE APPEARS TO BE SLOWING UP

Is Opinion of Allied and American Officers at Washington.

Washington.—The German drive at the British lines appeared to be slowing under the policy of elastic defense pursued by Field Marshal Haig, according to the opinion of allied and American army officers here, based on the official statements from London, Paris and Berlin. The greatest battle of the war, thus far, they believe, is entering its second stage with the German forces facing an increasingly stubborn resistance. The outcome may not be discernible for several days.

The attitude of American military authorities was officially stated by Major General March, acting chief of staff. He said:

"The war department sees no cause for alarm on the part of the people of the United States. Sir Douglas Haig has announced that the British withdrawal was in accordance with a definite plan. That announcement is to be accepted."

### NEW YORK PLANNING AGAINST AN AIR RAID

New York. — Relief work which might be required in the event of an air raid on New York was planned at a meeting of doctors, nurses and police officials held here at the headquarters of the health department. Police Commissioner Enright announced that several units of surgeons, nurses and helpers had been formed in case of emergency and that bomb shelters would soon be provided in school-houses and other places.

### ADDITIONAL BRIDGES ARE THROWN ACROSS JORDAN

London.—The British have thrown additional bridges across the Jordan and had advanced nine miles in the direction of Esalt by the evening of March 24. The text of the statement on the operations follows: "During the night of March 23 fresh bridges were thrown across the Jordan, and by evening of the 24th our troops had progressed nine miles through difficult mountainous country in the direction of Esalt."



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#### Good Excuse for Bothering.

Charles lived with his aunt, who was a milliner and worked down town. She had told him not to telephone to her unless it was important. One day she was called to the phone, and little Charles said, "Auntie, don't be cross, but this is something very impossible." —Chicago Tribune.

#### Well, They Don't Know Any!

Men quarrel and fight about their opinions, never about facts.—Chicago News.

#### Optimistic Thought.

There is a remedy for every invasion of right.

#### Spreading Up.

Monthly companion to the celebrated painter who when the paint got low, hastened to finish the floor before the paint gave out, has been found in the woman knitter who sat up late to finish a scarf because she had so little yarn!

#### Properly Sized Up.

"Yes," remarked a conceited young bachelor, "I have the greatest admiration for the fair sex, but I never expect to marry—oh, dear, no!" "Indeed," a lady remarked. "Then I am to understand that you not only admire women, but you have a sincere regard for them as well."

#### First Soldiers' Home.

The Soldiers' home at Washington, the first institution of the kind in the United States, was established in 1851. A tract of land for the purpose, 200 acres in extent, was purchased with a sum of money levied by Gen. Winfield Scott on the City of Mexico during the war with that country. There are now several branches of the national home, and state homes in twenty-seven states.

#### Responsibility the Cure.

If there is anything that shows what a man or woman really is it is responsibility. It makes those taking a stand in the full light, where they can really justify their claims. If a person who constantly boasts his greatness can stand under the test and burden of responsibility, then his success is assured. If he fails in this test he loses friends. Until such persons regain their position they are despised and rejected.

#### People Who Are Too Good.

We have in this world all kinds of organizations for making bad people good and good people better, but I know of none for making too good people—well, let us say, normal. We have all known people who would have been greatly benefited by an occasional "spree," with perhaps a night in jail, but whom no one is courageous enough to corrupt. It is not their fault that they are so good; all the forces of their social circle work to make them more respectable.—Robert M. Gay in the Atlantic Monthly.

#### Removing a Broken Caster.

A broken caster may be withdrawn from the leg of a piece of furniture by tapping a hole in the center of the caster stem, and threading in a machine screw, thus securing a suitable hold. A heavy metal washer is placed under the head of the screw. One side of the washer is supported by a block of wood, or leather, while a claw hammer, or "jimmy," is used to pry out the broken part.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

#### Little Doubt About It.

Mary and Bobby were playing on a picket fence when Mary accidentally slipped and her little dress caught on one of the pickets and held her suspended about a foot from the ground. Bobby tried and tugged, but in vain; he could not release her, so he said: "Never mind, Mary, I'll go and call my mother." And poor little Mary, hanging by the lone picket, replied earnestly: "All right, Bobby, and I'll wait for you here."

#### Santa Marta.

Santa Marta, Colombia, is one of the great banana ports. After the days of the Spanish Main, when it was the scene of hot fighting between Spanish and English, and won a place in the romances of Kingsley as the setting for a naval battle, Santa Marta sank into a tropical siesta that lasted until the banana business was put on a world-wide basis by a great corporation. The banana shippers awoke her, and now there is a great air of activity and bustle in the old bay.

## Most Old People Are Constipated

Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is a combination of simple laxative herbs with pepsin, gentle in action, and especially adapted as a remedy for elderly people, women and children. It is the standard family remedy in countless homes. Sold by druggists everywhere for 50 cts. and \$1.00—two sizes.

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